

Mr. Sakellaris was born in Volada on the island of Karpathos and came to America with the last wave of immigration of the decade 1965–1975. He has distinguished himself in his devotion to community involvement, both in the Karpathian community and beyond, serving as a friend and a model of accomplishment. Notably, his outstanding two-year service as chairman of the Karpathian Federation resulted in such a considerable increase of funds that the Foundation was able to purchase the “Karpathian Home” in New Jersey. He has also achieved success as a restaurant owner, first with the ownership of Al’s Diner in Jersey City and afterwards Lyndhurst Diner in Lyndhurst.

As a founding member of Pan Gregorian Enterprises in New Jersey, Mr. Sakellaris was instrumental in the formation of the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey. Through his tireless work with Andres Comodromos, Tassos Efstratiades and the founding Board members, Mr. Sakellaris helped to establish a sound and productive organization. He served as Executive Vice President of the Federation and currently is a Chairman of the Board of Pan Gregorian Enterprises of New Jersey.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sakellaris remained enthusiastically involved in political life, taking an active role in supporting several Philhellene political figures in New Jersey, such as Senator Bill Bradley, Senator Robert Menendez and Governor Jim Florio. In 1986, he joined the Michael Dukakis for President Committee, becoming one of the strongest supporters of the Greek American presidential candidate.

John Sakellaris has also served the Greek Orthodox Church in many capacities, including his service as a president of the Association of Voladiotou “Saint Anargyroi” and president of the parish council of Saint Demetrios Church in Jersey City. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Metropolis of New Jersey. For his selfless service, Mr. Sakellaris was awarded the title of Archon of the Ecuemenical Patriarchate.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable work of Mr. John E. Sakellaris, whose service and tireless efforts have touched the lives of the entire Greek-American community in New Jersey. I join with the grateful members of the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of New Jersey, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 315, 316, 317, and 318. If present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes 315 and 317, and “yea” on rollcall votes 316 and 318.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment shifting funds from the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX).

On September 1, 2000, the United States and Russia signed the US-Russia Plutonium Disposition Agreement, with each nation agreeing to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium. Since that time, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has made the decision to disposition the weapons-grade plutonium by means of a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX) which is currently under construction at DOE’s Savannah River Site (SRS), near Aiken, South Carolina.

In addition to providing a means to enable the United States to honor its international obligation to Russia, MOX will generate nearly \$50 billion worth of nuclear fuel rods over its lifespan which will be sold by the federal government.

The facility, which is more than halfway completed, currently employs 2,600 individuals at the site and is responsible for over 2,000 additional jobs across 42 states which are directly related to the project.

Finally, the MOX facility plays a great role in the energy future of the United States. The nuclear fuel rods MOX will produce will provide power to the homes of millions of Americans.

The MOX facility is a vital asset to our country and I stand committed to taking every measure necessary to ensure that this worthwhile program is fully funded.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUXBURY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 375th anniversary of the town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, a beautiful coastal haven on the State’s historic South Shore.

While the town itself was incorporated in 1637, people have inhabited the area for as much as 12,000 years. The Wampanoag tribe called the area now known as Duxbury “Mattakesset,” meaning “place of many fish.” Indeed, Duxbury is blessed with bountiful natural resources, including not only fish but shellfish, cranberries, rivers, ponds and idyllic beaches. Its English name was chosen by Myles Standish—an officer serving as a military advisor to the Pilgrims—who named it after Duxbury Woods in Great Britain.

Colonists in Duxbury fought in several early American wars, and during the Revolutionary War, the town maintained a militia of 60 minutemen under the leadership of Ichabod Alden. One of Duxbury’s first natives, George Partridge, went on to represent the State of Massachusetts at the Continental Congress and was elected to the First Continental Congress.

The fishing industry developed rapidly after the Revolutionary War, when fishing rights were granted following the Treaty of Paris. What began as a small operation involving no more than a few families with two-masted schooners eventually grew into the largest ship-building port in the world. At the peak of the shipbuilding era, Duxbury boasted 20 shipyards and produced an average of 10 large sailing vessels every year. Eventually, swift clippers that required deep harbors superseded the brigs built in the shallower waters surrounding Duxbury, and the center of American shipbuilding shifted to Boston. However, several historical monuments to this era remain standing today.

The shift in the shipbuilding industry made way for a new industry to dominate Duxbury’s economy—tourism. Thanks to its coastal location and natural beauty, Duxbury soon became a popular summer resort destination. Several area landmarks were built during this period, including the 130-foot Myles Standish Monument. The elegant Standish Hotel, originally built to accommodate the influx of summer visitors, survives today as two private residences.

Duxbury’s population further boomed with the construction of Route 3, which made Boston and the surrounding region more accessible. The rapid growth that occurred in subsequent years helped shape Duxbury into the vibrant community it is today.

Mr. Speaker, the 375th anniversary of Duxbury is an opportunity both to reflect on its past accomplishments and look forward to its future. Its long history embodies the richness of American history and the indomitable spirit of the American people. May this remarkable Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, my vote on the amendment to H.R. 5855 offered by Congressman TED POE was not recorded due to a technical error. I intended to vote “no.”

URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE FUNDING

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the amendment offered by Mr. HIGGINS that would increase funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s State and Local Program by \$58 million to allow communities such